

REMARKS

Claims 1- 22 are in the present application. Claims 6-8, and 22 are currently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 10-20 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 2 is hereby amended to add the sequences of the mature forms and soluble forms of the DESC1 protein. Claims 9 and 21 are amended to replace the reference to the sequences shown in the Figures with SEQ ID NOs. as requested by the Examiner. Claim 21 is also amended to identify the isolated nucleic acid on the basis of the nucleotide sequence to which it hybridizes rather than the amino acid sequence that it encodes. Support for the amendment is found in original claims 2 and 9. As the amendments add no new matter, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the present preliminary amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,
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